

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

LAND CLEARING

(acre)
CODE 460

DEFINITION

Removing trees, stumps, and other vegetation from wooded areas.

PURPOSE

To achieve needed land use adjustments and improvements in the interest of soil and water conservation and in keeping with the capabilities of the land.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to wooded areas where the removal of trees, stumps, brush, and other vegetation is needed in carrying out a soil and water conservation plan, and the land to be cleared will be used according to its capabilities.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

The plan shall specify the kinds of timber to be salvaged, lengths of logs, and place of stacking. Method of disposal shall be specified for all material not be salvaged. Clearing and disposal methods shall be according to applicable state laws and with due regard to the safety of persons and property.

The cleared area shall be left in a neat and sightly condition that will facilitate the planned use and treatment of the land.

The plan shall provide for the measures necessary to protect the cleared area from erosion.

Special attention shall be given to maintaining or improving habitat for fish and wildlife where applicable. Consideration of such things as strip clearing, windowing debris, and maintaining den and food trees shall be explored.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications for land clearing shall be in keeping with this standard and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended purpose.

Planning considerations for quantity and quality

Quantity

1. Effects on the water budget, especially on volumes and rates of runoff, evaporation, and transpiration.
2. The impact of soil settling on the variation in rates of runoff immediately after clearing.

Quality

1. Effects on erosion and the movement of sediment, pathogens, and soluble and sediment-attached substances carried by runoff.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically, and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

SPECIFICATION

DESIGN

All plans will be in keeping with the Engineering Standard for Land Clearing.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Clearing operations shall be done in such a manner that erosion and air and water pollution will be minimized.

PROCEDURE

All clearing shall be performed in a manner to achieve the intended purpose of the practice.

All timber to be salvaged shall be identified or marked in an acceptable manner. The method of stacking shall be adaptable to hauling equipment to be used.

All trees, stumps, and brush within the designated area shall be cut at or below ground level in so far as possible. When the cleared area is to be used for pasture, single trees or groups of trees may be left as needed for shade.

All trees, stumps, and brush shall be disposed of by burning or as designated by the engineer.

The use of explosives in any and all clearing operations shall be in strict compliance with applicable State statutes and regulations.

The cleared area shall be left in a suitable condition for operation of heavy land preparation equipment.

CHECKING FOR COMPLETION

Land Clearing shall be checked for completion in accordance with procedures given in "Engineering Notekeeping, Land Clearing", TR-62.

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